

## REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-16 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Scholtens. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The instant invention generally relates to a method for safeguarding establishment of a user channel connection in a network. Here, the user channel connection is established via a packet-oriented data network between a first and second media gateway, and a first call feature server controls the first media gateway.

Scholtens discloses a continuity check operation that includes sending a pattern of bits over a packet network connection through a first interface on a packet network to a second interface on the packet network. However, the reference fails to disclose a *first controller* indicating *to the second media gateway* that a test signal sent by the first media gateway is being sent back to the first media gateway, as required by the claimed invention. For example, claim 1 requires “a first controller controlling at least the first media gateway, wherein for a connection continuity check, the first controller indicates to the second media gateway that a test signal sent by the first media gateway is being sent back to the first media gateway in order to check whether the bearer channel connection is through-connected between the first and second media gateway.”

The Examiner cites Scholtens at col. 6, lns. 19-23 as disclosing the recited feature. Applicants respectfully disagree. The section of the reference discloses that a first gateway 100A notifies a first call controller 120A that a pattern has been detected. The first call controller 120A may then send an SS7 message to the terminating (second) call controller 120B, informing it of a successful continuity check. However, Scholtens fails to disclose that the first controller indicates anything toward the second media gateway.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. An indication of the same is solicited. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account 02-1818 for any fees which are due and owing, referencing Attorney Docket No. 119010-050.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Dated: March 14, 2008